



Reading Newsletter



Spring 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



World Book Day

We are coming to that very special time of year again where we celebrate books and a love of reading for pleasure. The national day for World Book Day is Thursday 6th March and everyone is being invited to 'READ YOUR WAY'.

This year, we are focusing on 'bedtime reading' and the benefits of reading before bed. The children are being invited to bring in their favourite bedtime story to share, and dress in pyjamas or onesies. Alternatively, the children may wish to dress up traditionally as their favourite book character, and that is welcome too. The children may wish to bring in a bedtime teddy or blanket also.

Benefits of Reading Before Bed:

- ✚ *Strengthens Parent-Child Bond – Creates a special, calming moment of connection between parent and child.*
- ✚ *Boosts Imagination & Creativity – Engaging with stories stimulates a child's creativity and curiosity.*
- ✚ *Enhances Vocabulary & Language Skills – Exposure to new words and sentence structures strengthens communication skills.*
- ✚ *Develops a Love for Reading – Establishing a bedtime reading habit fosters a lifelong appreciation for books.*
- ✚ *Encourages Focus & Listening Skills – Following a story improves attention span and comprehension.*
- ✚ *Supports Emotional Development – Stories help children understand and process emotions in a safe way.*
- ✚ *Reduces Screen Time – A book before bed replaces overstimulating screens, aiding better sleep.*
- ✚ *Instils a Sense of Routine – A consistent bedtime reading ritual signals to the brain that it is time to wind down.*

WDB Competition:

As this year's World Book Day is inviting everyone to 'READ YOUR WAY', we are running a competition for children to send in a picture of them 'reading their way'. You may wish to create a reading nook/den that they like to read in, or show them reading in interesting places. Please send your pictures to homelearning@robsouth.org and add WDB Competition in the subject. Please also ensure your child's full name and class is included.

We very much look forward to your entries, and how you 'READ YOUR WAY!'

Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be

Author Visit –Luke Temple:

The children loved the author visit from Luke Temple where he shared his fantastic series of books. The children were so engaged that many books were purchased, and the children got to have their very own copies signed.



Library Visits:

In October, Year 5 visited the library to see the author Ashley Thorpeto who wrote 'The Boy to Beat the Gods'. The children learned about the incredible pantheon of Yoruba deities – the Orishas, how a love of manga and anthologies exposed Ashley to mythology from across the world, and how to create their own worlds and characters.

In November, Year 6 visited the library for Remembrance Day, where they heard the author Sufiya Ahmed talk about her latest wartime book 'Rosie Raja Undercover Codebreaker'. The story is set in Bletchley Park where Britain's codebreakers are working against the clock to decipher Enigma's secret messages. The workshop was interactive and the children had the opportunity to complete their own code breaking challenge.

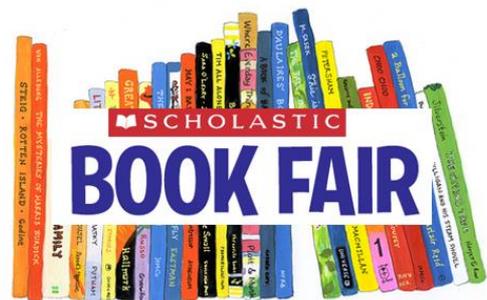
In November, Reception had a visit from the author Deborah Chancellor who shared her book 'Shelly Hen Lays Eggs'. The children then completed a sequencing activity using illustrations from the book and the children had to cut and stick the stages of the story into the right order, which they did amazingly!



Scholastic Book Fair:

Our next book fair will run after school from Monday 2nd June until Friday 6th June. If you would like to browse the books in advance, please follow the link: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents>

We look forward to seeing you there!



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